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**Public Comment Sheet**

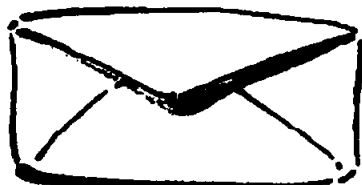
Your input on the proposed cleanup plan for the Pagel's Pit Superfund Site is important to EPA. Comments provided by the public are valuable in helping the EPA select a final cleanup for the site.

You may use the space below to write your comments, then fold and mail or fax your comments to Gordon Blum at (312) 353-1155. Comments must be postmarked on or before September 11, 1999. If you have any questions, please contact Gordon Blum at (312) 353-8501 or toll free at (800) 621-8431. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to the following address:

blum.gordon@epa.gov

Having lived in this area (on and off) since 1965 I am very disappointed that  
Pagel Pit has not been closed. When I resided at 8133 Lindenwood (farm house  
directly north of landfill) my well was supposedly tested every month with  
negative results each testing. Since leaving the area I was contacted by the  
National Registry for Exposure because my family was exposed to trichloroethylene  
through our well water. I was pregnant at the onset of the exposure and my  
daughter was 3 years of age when we moved away. I can only hope she has no  
long-term side effects from the exposure as a very young child. I agree the site  
needs to be cleaned up and really do not have any ideas on how to procede - but  
expanding Pagel Pit to the south is not a solution either. It appears a lot of  
deceptive practices have taken place over the years - the height of the landfill  
should not be higher than the surrounding terrain, the odor on warm, humid days,  
constant garbage in my yard from the garbage trucks driving by, Lindenwood is  
always a mess particularly on windy days, water contamination, having to follow  
a truck hauling sludge (the odor is extremely foul), etc.. I realize it was my  
former in-laws and spouse that sold the additional land, but they were lead to  
believe there would not be a quarry or stone excavating operation on that piece  
of property. As you well know, there is now a quarry at the corner of Baxter  
and Lindenwood operated by Rockford Blacktop/Winnebago Reclamation. I feel  
Pagel Pit should be closed and the residents of Rockford pay a higher fee to  
have their trash hauled to the Browning-Ferris site on Highway 251. Browning-  
Ferris runs a much safer, cleaner, state of the art reclamation site.

Name Susan Allen  
Address Baxter Road  
City Rockford, IL  
State IL Zip 61109



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[blum.gordon@epa.gov](mailto:blum.gordon@epa.gov)

Mr. Blum,

I am apposed to a "No Action" alternative approach to the contamination in OU 2.

Since 1991 the EPA and Pagel Pit has known that a ground water pump-and-treat system was and is the "Best Practice" approach to handling this contamination. Due to costs the EPA and Pagel Pit have both chosen an alternative. Wait & see that in my opinion is criminal, not only to the people but also to the land.

The Pagel Pit should be used as a case study for all to learn from on how not to operate a site and even more where sites should not be located. (Flood plain and streams)

If your consciousness do not allow you to shut it down, let them at least allow you to do more and imroove testings not only at the site, but at nearby homes and streams.

Thank you for listening!

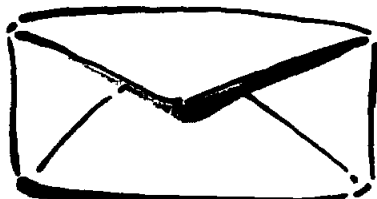
Mark A. Larson

Name MARK LARSEN

Address OAK LAKE RD

City ROCKFORD ILLINOIS

State ILL Zip 61109



**Fold on dashed lines, tape, stamp, and mail**

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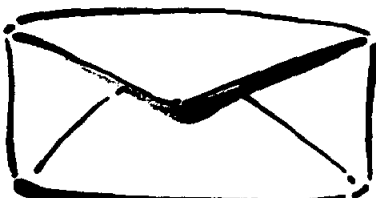
I believe Rockford Blacktop should leave the environment  
that they have contaminated as close clear as they found it  
before the start of the landfill. Rockford Blacktop is not a non-  
for profit organization. An extreme amount of income has been  
accumulated by Rockford Blacktop over the years. As we all know  
the garbage business is a huge money maker. Saying that it would  
be too costly to purify the ground water is absurd considering the  
profits gained by Rockford Blacktop. The size of the groundwater has not  
changed since the inception of Pagel Pit. Land has been purchased  
surrounding the site by Rockford Blacktop but this does not solve the  
problems to come. I believe the EPA is here to protect our environment  
from polluters large or small. Just because this is a large company  
they should not be able to change the rules set for them by the EPA.  
I agree this is going to be a huge undertaking but I am not  
sympathetic to costs, equipment, or time needed. All parties were  
aware of all site conditions before the okay was given to haul the  
first load of garbage. With this in mind, all have been aware  
of the circumstances surrounding the EPA ruling on cleanup. The  
cleanup of the ground water should proceed as designated by the  
EPA many years ago. Variances from this ruling only leave our  
residents with the eventual cleanup with extremely high costs looming  
over our heads. The site was contaminated by customers paying Rockford  
Blacktop for the use of their landfill site. Hence Rockford Blacktop is  
now responsible for the cleanup of this site.

Name Cindy + Steve Bunk

Address E. McNeal Rd

City Monroe Center

State IL Zip 61052



# Pagel's Pit Superfund Site Public Comment Sheet

Fold on dashed lines, tape, stamp, and mail

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Place  
Stamp  
Here

Gordon Blum  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)  
U.S. EPA - Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604

ROCKFORD.  
SEP 13  
P M  
1939

[illegible]

Dean Ekberg<sup>(1)</sup>  
O'Connell St  
Rockford, IL 61109  
Sept 11, 1999

Gordon Blum  
US EPA Community Involvement Coord.  
Office of Public Affairs (P-19J)  
77 W. Jackson Blvd  
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Blum,

My name is Dean Ekberg. I'm 44 years old, married, and father of two boys. I was born and raised here on the southern edge of Winnebago County and I also currently live and work here. I am co-owner of Ekberg Material Inc., a quarry just NE of Pagel's Pit Superfund site. I hold a Master of Science degree in Geological Engineering and a Bachelor of Science<sup>degree</sup> in Geology, much of my course study in both programs involving hydrogeology. Six of my 21 years of work experience in Geological Engineering were involved with designing and implementing rural water supply drilling programs in western and southern Africa. I also spent 8 years in Louisiana and Texas designing & implementing oil well drilling and production programs. All this to say I've

got a fair amount of experience in underground fluid flow.

First of all, the EPA's proposal to reverse course at the Pagel's Pit Superfund site by going from a <sup>pit</sup> closure and pollution treatment stance to a "no action" or "monitored natural attenuation" stance is appalling. Your 1991 Record of Decision on Pagel ordered closure and treatment and said that a "failure to implement this order would cause imminent and substantial endangerment to public health". If you guys are the Environmental Protection Agency why would you reverse the "91" decision and knowingly endanger the public.

Secondly, Gordon, if you are the Community Involvement person for the EPA you're sure not doing a good job of involving the public. Your job of public notification was abysmal. The first public meeting on August 25th was attended by about 60 concerned residents. Only 1 or 2 of those 60, though, actually saw



your Public Notice that you stuck at the back of the local section of the Rockford Reg Register Star, those 1 or 2

then told everybody else by word of mouth at the last minute. None of

the concerned residents around Page 1 or west of Page 1 were notified by

mail like they were supposed to.

the second Public Meeting, on September 8th, had no Public Notice in the Register Star, and the post card you sent to everybody from the 1st meeting arrived Sept 8th, a day after the

Meeting.

Also, in your Proposal, while you

say "no action" or monitoring only for

— OVA and OVI operable units you never show exactly where this

OVA and OVI are so we can

see exactly what your proposal not

to do: On the little map that you

did give us you're conveniently

skipped-out all the Monitor wells down to the south where you're given

the Pagel Pit operator permission to do another dump, since he's done such a good job the first time. Speaking of "no action" in the Public Meeting associated with your 1991 Decision to close & treat Pagel, you guys said that "no action" would be "a complete step backward as far as remediation of Pagel's pit", I guess now you've decided to do a little backpedaling from your "91" decision.

The 1991 Record of Decision papers showed significant enough amounts of Arsenic, Cadmium, and Bisphthalate as well as solvents and ammonia to close Pagel & treat it. "Imminent and substantial endangerment of the public" would result if this was not carried out immediately. Then why did you guys allow Rockford Blacktop to keep right on dumping for the last 8 years with no let up and make an estimated 100 million dollars per year in dumping fees according to unofficial estimates.

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the claim is that Pagan is  
to big and that the 3 million  
capital investment for a pump &  
treat system and the million/year  
operating cost is not cost effective.  
What, it's not cost effective to  
protect innocent victims down stream  
& down gradient from Pagan. Your  
not the Environmental Protection  
Agency, your the Environmental Political  
Action Agency, You care more  
about the polluter than the pollutes,  
What about all the fish kills  
downstream from Pagan in Kilbuck  
Creek? What about the leachate  
springs around the base of Pagan's  
pit? What about the dumping of  
contaminated leachate south of Pagan  
during current pumpout operations at  
the new landfill to the south?  
And don't forget <sup>in Pagan</sup> the dumping of  
cyanide waste on Pagan's basket  
Superfund in Betula this summer

6  
Probably the biggest travesty of all is the well monitoring situation around Pagel. Virtually all the <sup>monitor</sup> wells west of Pagel (which is the direction most of the pollution goes) are improperly constructed. Most ~~were~~ drilled too shallow allowing pollution to pass underneath them down in the fractured bedrock below. And on top of that, Pagel does their own monitoring on the EPA monitor wells. Kind of like the fox watching the chicken coop.

If you care about protecting us folks down on the south edge of the County you'll throw out this proposal of "no action" and close Pagel Pit for good

Sincerely,

Dan Elberg

Frank Manzullo  
New Milford School Road  
Rockford, Il. 61109



Gordon Blum  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 5  
Office of Public Affairs  
77 West Jackson Boulevard (P-19J)  
Chicago, Il. 60604-3590

60604X3330



September 10, 1999

Gordy Blum,

After attending the EPA information meeting, September 8 in Rockford, many of us feel too much uncertainty in and around the Pagel pit.

My brother, Don Manzullo, who's the Congressman from the area, has now taken an interest and wants to know more.

We've lived in the area for 45 years, have seen too many cover ups and violations to deem this area "clean".

It's a gamble, too much concentration in one area. If one person should get ill, or some disease occur... I will guarantee a class action law suit... and EPA would be accountable.

Actually, I hope all the problems you have indicated that are okay, are true... it would be great... but too much doubt exists.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Frank Manzullo", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Frank Manzullo

NewMilford School Road  
Rockford, Il. 61109  
1-815-874-2612